

Earthquakes and Leaven

Our God is speaking a message to all men – a message of comfort and encouragement to those whose hearts are open to Him, and a message of warning to those who are careless and at ease (complacent) in the Kingdom (*Amos 6:1-6*). He speaks to His own, not to the world, for the world slumbers on – as is to be expected (*Jn. 17:9*). They of the world shall not be awakened, except by the thunder-like peals of exploding bombs and clashing arms. But God is speaking to His own so that those who are asleep might be awakened and those who are awake might prepare their hearts for what is shortly coming. Even as you read these words, God is moving to do a peculiar work among His people. It is so those with open hearts may now receive this quickening afresh from God, which is the resurrection life of the Son of God. This moving is a fresh impetus into what He has already been doing, and it is among those saints who are open to it that He will do a *further* work of preparation. The preparation is for a great outpouring, a glorious anointing. Therefore, it is important right now to move with His Spirit in His work of preparation.

The hour is late, for even now the thunder clouds of Tribulation hang heavy over the earth. Three times the Lord will bring terror to our own nation. First, from the “east” will rise a Plague, a dread scourge which will cause great sorrow and woe. It shall bring peril upon this nation and will bring great havoc to the earth, but the end is not yet. Then after this will come peril from the south, already with many rumblings of discontent. A mighty earthquake is now building in the nations south of the border, an earthquake that will completely disrupt their social, political and religious fabric. In great terror and anguish they will rise up under the banner of the hammer and sickle to scourge our land with consternation and fear.

Out of the south will come the terror of revolution, as nations rise up to overthrow the yokes that have bound them. Not knowing the truth nor the way to go, in ignorance they will acclaim a rule which will lead them astray. And they will use weapons of destruction to gnash at those they believe to have been their tormentors. Great will be the cry of anguish from our nation as it beholds the consternation and fear that boils over from the south. Yet, Christians seem to want to slumber on. Must our God awaken them with thunderpeals and mighty earthquakes? Must He treat them as He treats those of the world order? Can He not expect more of Christians than slumber and ease at this time in human history? Surely the time is at hand for great numbers of believers to awaken to what God is doing in the earth.

In preparation for the third and last time of terrible consternation, there comes real hope from the west coast of our land where the Lord will begin a great movement to bring spiritual revolution to His people. From the west He will spread it to cover the land and bring rest and hope and comfort.

The time of the third peril will be a time of exceeding darkness and fear and destruction, for great destruction will come from the north (the all-out nuclear war from the Kremlin). Many shall perish in that day as the enemy comes in like a flood. It will be a quick work and a time swiftly covered. Truly none would escape, if God's grace had not decreed a time of shortening (*Matt. 24:22*). The people have become lamentably wicked and the Lord's sword of judgment shall come to purge and cleanse and sweep clean this land. Then He can begin to plant and build and bring up those who will honor Him, and who will become as pillars of strength in a Christ-centered world confederacy of nations for all the world to see in the Millennium – a people trained in righteousness. For truly righteousness shall spring up as out of dry ground (*Ps. 107:35; Isa. 41:18, 35:1*), and there will be budding and blossoming from the Rod as the Lord hastens to carry out His Word in truth and holiness (*Jer. 1:11-12*). His chosen ones are to go out in this day to be a rod in His hand, a rod of Truth and Divine appointment through His miraculous power and grace, to warn His people and to bring out a remnant to fruition in righteousness and holiness. The truth is ready to be taken across the land so that, when the spiritual revolution begins, more people will be prepared to receive. Then they are to rise up as a mighty army in this last day to declare the soon coming of Jesus Christ and make yet others ready for His appearing.

The Kingdom comes not with casual observation (*Lk. 17:20*). Christians are to wake up to discern things not seen by the world, but which become apparent only to those who are open and yielded to the moving of the Spirit in opening up God's Word. They are not just to hear the thunder peals and earthquake rumblings from the east and south, but they are to hear the still small voice of God's Spirit "speaking" clarifications in this hour. Yet a little while the troubles of the east and south will be stayed. But *now* is the time for His people who have carefully studied and applied His Word to move into a fresh anointing of the Spirit so that God can cause them to proclaim His Word as never before.

Consider what God is doing, for it is His strange work (*Isa. 28:16-23*), a work which few yet understand. Elijah was sent into the depths of the desert to wait upon God, and His hand overshadowed him and led him to Mt. Horeb, the Mountain of God, delivering him from the hand of Jezebel (*1 Ki. 19:7-8*). This was the same mountain to which Moses previously was led as he brought the people out of Egypt. And today God is again preparing to bring a people out from the enemy into His Kingdom (His Mountain). Consider, for as Elijah waited at the Mountain of God, he saw the results of a mighty wind (same Hebrew word for spirit) which rent the Mountain and caused the heavens to grow black and heard ominous peals of thunder (picturing distant war). It was the east wind which often brought with it severe storm and plague in Scripture (*Ex. 10:13, Ps. 48:7, Jer. 18:17, Ezek. 19:12*) and the wind Elijah experienced patterns that scourge rising out of the east.

Elijah then experienced the rumbling of a mighty earthquake. And Scripture elsewhere warns about the mighty earthquakes which are coming (*Isa. 29:6; Lk. 21:11; Rev. 6:12, 11:13*), rumblings of which are now beginning in the nations of the south. There are to be both literal earthquakes and the shakings of political and moral instability. The south refers to Mexico, Cuba, Central and South America on our side of the world, but to most Mediterranean nations, it is Africa on the European side of Christendom.

Elijah also observed the fire that encompassed the mountain after the earthquake and so shall the fury of the fire and power of nuclear war spew forth to encompass this earth (*Isa. 29:6, 30:30; Joel 2:30; Rev. 13:13, 16:8-9*). Even as God warns of the wind and storm clouds from the east and the rumblings of the earthquake from the south, so He also vividly warns of the coming of destructive fire from the north.

After the wind, the earthquake and the fire, Elijah heard a still small voice, the voice of his God (*I Ki. 19:12*). This pictures the Kingdom's coming, but not by sight-seeing. Only those who are attuned to His Spirit and are eager to hear His still small voice, will be able to see that Kingdom which is even now developing within wholly dedicated believers and surrounding them at every hand.

But there is also His work from the west. By means of the Shekinah Glory, God dwelt within the cubicle of the Holy of Holies in the western-most part of the Tabernacle. Perceive the pattern laid down in God's Word. When Aaron and his sons were consecrated to serve Him in the priestly office, they were told to wait before God, just inside the door of the Tabernacle Holy Place, for seven days of dedication. On the eighth day certain whole-body sacrifices were placed on the Altar in the outer court near the eastern gate (*Lev. 8:33-9:2*). When all was in readiness, fire came from God's presence in the Holy of Holies to consume the sacrifices on the Altar (*Lev. 9:22-24*). That fire came from the west in the Holy of Holies onto the Altar in the east.

God conforms all things to His basic patterns, and He will soon move by His Spirit in a way the world has never seen. This moving is like the fire from the Holy of Holies. It is not a fire of destruction, but a fire of His Spirit to fall upon and purify those who have placed themselves upon the Altar as living sacrifices. As the fire came out of the west, so will the Holy Spirit move from the west in our nation until the fire of God's anointing has encompassed the entire land (*Hos. 11:10*). The west coast of America is the western-most of all Christendom. And the Fire of the Holy Spirit will fall upon those who are truly His people *before* the fire of the fury of all-out nuclear war falls upon the land. God is ready to do a work you would not believe if told.

Consider the mighty prophet at Horeb, the Mount of God. If you would be a prophetic voice of authority in the land, actively wait before God (build His Word into your understanding) until you *know* His still small voice and move *only* at the direction of His Spirit. Count as nothing the abominations of this world and separate yourself to Him in His plan in His Word. He is waiting for a people who will be His alone, even now. Will you not hear and respond? Truly the Lord will have a people in this land, first a remnant which will do exploits in His Name and prepare in abundance for a great Harvest during His appointed time.

Before the Firstfruits are taken out, the Lord's called-out ones are continually at work on earth. The "woman church" on earth, for the most part, teaches and trains her communicants the best she knows how. But it is not in righteousness and truth, because Satan has long been seducing *all* the world (*Rev. 12:9*). Therefore, there are to be three "measures of meal," three lots of believers prepared (*Matt. 13:33*). According to priority, there will be the first and foremost lot of Christians prepared and ready to fully partake of all the Lord has made available – but containing some leaven. Also there will be a secondary lot of Christians which will see God's glory

but shall not enter into the glories of the celestial Kingdom, containing more leaven. And there is to be a third quality lot of insufficiently prepared believers who shall be denied the Lord's *complete* protection during the Great Tribulation because their lot contains much leaven. This last portion will have to endure a great deal of hardship and suffering, for then there shall be the weeping and gnashing of teeth in great darkness.

As in almost every aspect of symbolism, there is that which is seen in the Light, above the line, and there is the mirror image below the line and in darkness. So there is a ferment of truth likened to the leaven of evil (*Matt. 13:33*), and that ferment of truth works slowly, penetrating the fibers of the soul to bring forth what God has prepared. His ways are not our ways, and He must bring us to seek the higher ways. Fermentation is a chemical process which causes a conversion of an organic substance into something new, for example the conversion of grape juice into wine. The process generally involves a sensible internal motion, the development of heat, and the liberation of gas which can produce high pressure inside a closed vessel. Because of this process of fermentation in new wine, an old and already stretched and rigid wineskin (a container made from tanned hide) probably will not long contain the new wine, but will rupture. From one perspective, new wine is a type of new truth and so it is too potent to be received, except by a *prepared* remnant. Therefore, a called-out remnant, the Harvest's firstripe, is being prepared as a new and supple wine-skin vessel to receive truths and workings of the Spirit that put too much pressure on tradition-bound Christian and church groups. Each such new vessel must be completely flexible to contain whatever the Lord wishes to reveal to him or to do in him.

When the Lord begins to reveal new truth needful for today, it begins a "fermentation" within, producing an internal commotion, an effervescence, a breaking down, a restructuring, and an elevating, making ready for His Spirit Fire to do the final work. This working continues until the new truth has become mature and then, like mature wine, it is incorruptible, purifying and lasting. It is then no longer new wine. New wine will ferment properly and become mature wine, or it will sour into vinegar. Likewise, the new truth revealed will either do its proper fermenting and mature us, or it will turn us sour – depending on our readiness or lack of it. Most of us are slow to receive much of anything new to our understanding. It takes time for new truth to do its work and develop us in maturity. In the meantime, we may experience a lot of fermenting action within – stirring, heat and pressure.

Two groups of the early-ripe have been mentioned. In the Bible pattern, the firstfruits was that part of the harvest which ripened first and preceded the main harvest. The two groups include a Firstfruits which will be taken out, preceding the main Harvest, and another early-ripe of the Harvest which shall be left in the earth to act as a ferment of righteousness and truth during the Harvest period, until all three categories of believers have taken on as much preparation as they want. In the Bible pattern, firstfruits were *especially* dedicated to God, and their presentation to Him was seen as the guarantee of the balance of the harvest. The pure teaching, enablement and protection from the shield of the glorified Firstfruits also will guarantee a proper preparation among those others who really mean business with the Lord.

Initially, one sheaf of the firstfruits, with no leaven, was presented to the Lord in the special ceremony of the Passover season, near the beginning of the barley harvest. It was not all of the first-ripe grain, but only one sheaf that was plucked out (**Lev. 23:10-11**). This single sheaf typed the wholly righteous Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Initiator. Until this ceremony had been performed, no harvest work could be done. The one sheaf was cut *out* of the harvest field and *brought to the priest*. Then later, two loaves were baked *with leaven* from the grain of the one sheaf (**Lev. 23:17**). One is described in **Revelation 12** as a first-born Manchild group which is caught up to the Throne of God, preceding the 3 1/2 years of wilderness Tribulation. **Revelation 14** also describes this 144,000 group as being the Firstfruits to God and the Lamb. The special reason for this single loaf of the Firstfruits bread being taken out before the Tribulation is for the enabling of that group to encompass and protect and teach others left on earth during the day of trouble. The caught-up group is to be a protective shield in the wilderness of testing. Having received their glorified bodies, they are to perform similar messenger service as did our Lord after He was raised from the dead. He continued to appear in His glorified body teaching the Disciples for a period of 40 days (possibly also a type of the 42 months of Great Tribulation). This group is also described as the Bride of Christ.

Paralleling the Firstfruits loaf taken up from the nations is another first-ripe group, chosen from but remaining with the Jewish people on the earth to act as a ferment of righteousness and truth. Both groups operate throughout the Great Tribulation to give all believers full opportunity to become prepared for either heavenly or earthly Kingdom citizenship. The Bride, 144,000 company becomes the Lord's teaching assistant in establishing the Glorious Church consisting initially of not more than 12,000 true Christians. The 12,000 then become the developers of the Glorious Church which will develop into the vast Harvest company of heavenly Kingdom citizens at the end of the term of Tribulation. The Jewish 144,000 company becomes the teaching assistant in building the earthly Kingdom of Christ promised to Jacob. Whether all nominal church groups will keep their labels when offered truths new to them is not critical. Members not caring for the "narrowmindedness" of pure truth will leave; those remaining will more and more take up the teachings presented by the Glorious Church. Progressively, the church groups left over will become one with the Glorious Church.

Just before telling of the woman leavening the three lumps or measures, Jesus spoke of three groupings of the followers of Christ. He told of the 100-fold, 60-fold and 30-fold being brought forth before the Harvest at the end of this age (**Matt. 13:33,23,38-39**). The 100-fold group is the lot of prepared ones which fully partakes of *all* the Lord has offered. They will have permitted the full working of the Word and the Spirit, during which their human spirits, souls and bodies will have continuously come under the guiding of the Holy Spirit. Thereby they will have become prepared as joint-heirs with Christ to rule and reign within the glories of the celestial Kingdom and over the earth. These shall be caught up at the close of the Tribulation period, in almost the same manner in which the Firstfruits Manchild company preceded them at the beginning of that 3 1/2 year period. They shall rise at the close of the harvest season to help the Lord in the heavenlies as He proceeds to conform all things to His own realm.

The 60-fold group is the second lot which will see the glory of God, but shall not

enter into the glories of the celestial Kingdom (*Jn. 3:3*). They will have come in too late to be partakers with the sons of Light in the fullness God offers. But as they mature, they too shall receive His full protection, having learned to trust in Him completely, for they are the sons of righteousness and sons of the Kingdom, though it be but the earthly. They will become the first of the earthly inheritors of immortality in human flesh during the Millennium Age, as they continue to live on earth into the 1,000 years of peace. These are regenerated humans who have encouraged the immortal seed of Christ's righteousness to grow and dominate – through *their overcoming*. It will be their lot to enter the earthly Kingdom, but in a fullness of immortal physical stature and perfection.

The 30-fold group is the third lot (believers in Christ) which will be cast out of the Kingdom temporarily, and which will not receive the completeness of protection during the Great Tribulation period. They will be cast out because of their folly in not participating in adequate preparation and because they are believers who have continued to seek their own desires first. They will have to endure much hardship and suffering in the time of “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” They will have to partake of the scourge, because of their lack of preparation beforehand.

Each of the three classifications of believers will be partakers during the Millennium and the Kingdom Age following, but with a difference in time and also in the realm of glory. Earthly glory is not heavenly glory, nor is the heavenly glory the earthly; yet each in his own sphere shall show the glory of the Lord.

People are now living in a sacred hour, and this is the time when those in the developing Body of Christians should seek God as never before. In the mid-1960's, the Lord began a new moving by His Spirit to do a work among His people open to it, so that they might be *prepared* to receive His mighty outpouring, the glorious anointing which is coming. This is a new and fresh move to bring about a *further* development in the spiritual Body which He is now raising up. Because it is the anointing that breaks the yoke (*Isa. 10:25-27*), He is especially anointing certain vessels for use in bringing deliverance to His people. Particularly keen shall be the Spirit's gift of discernment among them, for many deceptions and oppressions of the enemy are upon those of the Body, and there is need for a great cleansing and liberating work among them. Those who will now give themselves to the Lord quickly and without reservations can be used to help cleanse the Body of Christians from all defilements, as they move with His Spirit in that work of preparation to receive the glorious anointing (*II Cor. 7:1*).

The Lord has shown there is the “root of bitterness” which can defile many (*Heb. 12:14-15, Deut. 29:18*), manifested by the attitudes or spirits of jealousy, criticism and resentment. All three of these attitudes are the fruit of the root of bitterness in people. Jesus was and is the pattern for His spiritual Body. When He was on the Cross to purchase our redemption from all sins and defilements of the enemy, He refused the gall of bitterness (*Matt. 27:34*). Just as Jesus in His physical body refused the gall of bitterness, so is that same Jesus through the discernment and liberating power of His Spirit going to refuse the spirits of bitterness in His spiritual Body, primarily jealousy, criticism and resentment (*Eph. 5:30*). Peter's words of wisdom exposed the jealousy of Simon toward the Apostles and the coveting of their power by the rebuke, “I perceive you are in the gall of bitterness”

(Acts 8:22-23, Jms. 3:11-14).

Along with the three "bitterness" spirits, there are two other groups of three each, all of which are now especially troubling to the developing Body of Christians, hindering the saints from moving into their full inheritance in Christ. In the second group are proud spirits, religious spirits, and deceiving spirits. In the third group are covetous spirits, lustful spirits and lying spirits. The present move of the Spirit of God is primarily to bring cleansing and deliverance from these enemy influences so that the saints will no longer be hindered. Therefore, He is raising up and anointing vessels of His choosing to be used in this ministry. He has promised keen discernment, and along with this gift will be the gifts of knowledge and wisdom, with much love and compassion, for this is a ministry of help and deliverance, not one of condemnation. Many saints, even leaders, are being vexed and oppressed by one or more of these spirits or attitudes, not being fully aware of it. They may sense that something is wrong, but they do not know what to do or how to obtain deliverance.

The nine attitudes mentioned are the very antithesis of the nine fruits of the Spirit listed in *Galatians 5:22-23*. How can the Lord impart love, joy and peace and brotherly affection in the presence of the bitterness of jealousy, criticism and resentment? It is impossible to express genuine patience, kindness, and goodness toward others, if there are proud, religious and deceiving attitudes at work within. There can be little real faithfulness, humility and self-control evidenced in those who have succumbed to covetous, lustful and lying spirits. Even as a physical body with chemical imbalance cannot operate properly, so the spiritual Body of Christians cannot be expected to function in full power and glory, until the Spirit has fully liberated it from all the bitter and defiling influences of the enemy so prevalent among the saints today.

There can be no real moving into the fullness of His Covenant blessings and powers until there has been a real cleansing and liberating work. Only a special baptism of His love, a special impartation of His wisdom and a special enduement of His anointing can bring about what He has purposed. May there be great eagerness for rapidity in maturing and in manifesting the fullness of fruit. May the power of the Lord's presence and glory be so profound, and the cleansing and liberating work of His Spirit be so effective, that the saints shall *refuse* to drink of the gall of bitterness, so that Christ's love, joy and peace may reign within and the enemy forced to flee (*Jms. 4:6-7*). May His true Body be raised up with no more affliction by harmful attitudes, cleansed from all defilements of flesh and spirit, until all as one man march forth to liberate a dying world, each member to fulfill his part in humble thankfulness for grace extended.

Revelation 10

After six angels have sounded the six Trumpets, all things are ready for the master stratagem to unfold – for the mystery of God to be finished. So great is the final chapter in the age-long history of the Church that a special “mighty Angel” is dispatched from heaven to reveal the contents of a special “little book.” The Greek word for angel simply means “messenger” or “agent” and can refer to anyone of earth or heaven with a special mission or message (*Gal. 4:14*).

: ¶ This mighty Angel is seen coming from heaven with a rainbow over his head and, from the description, He can be none other than the Lord Jesus Himself (*Rev. 1:13-18*). It is He, the Covenant (rainbow) God, the mighty Messenger of the Covenant (*Mal. 3:1*), who is coming down to reveal to John the end-time message for His Church. He is the Angel of the seventh Trumpet with the little book open in His hand.

But before He blows the seventh Trumpet, He has a Spirit-powered ministry and message for His people who will hear in the end-time. This is a preparation for the blowing of the seventh Trumpet. The blowing of the six preceding Trumpets unleashed forces of judgment. This “6” is man’s number; therefore, all six Trumpets deal with worldly or carnal events relating to the end-time judgments of God on rebellious man. The blowing of the seventh Trumpet releases great spiritual power, for “7” is the number of the Church. The true Church shall be brought to the place, by the grace of the reigning Christ, at which it will be able to receive an endowment of power such as the world has never seen. But first there is a preparatory ministry by the Messenger of the Covenant, the Lord Jesus Himself, as He comes to visit His “Temple” to cleanse and restore. This is the message content of the little book.

: 2 The little book is opened to give light and understanding, to give revelation of the end-time purposes of the Lord for His Church. Its revelation continues to unfold until the seventh Trumpet is ready to sound and the secret strategy of the Lord is ready to be enacted. Although in its end-time historical fulfillment the seventh Trumpet has not yet begun to sound, the voice of the seventh Angel has long been heard in a message of preparation. That which is about to take place on earth at the blowing of the seventh Trumpet shall cause the final veil to be removed. Then the secrets of God concerning the Church will be openly revealed for all men to clearly see what has been a mystery up to this day in human history. Hear and prepare, for the time is now short and much needs to be done in the spiritual Body being prepared for this end-time.

The mighty Messenger sets His right foot on the sea, the unregenerate and undisciplined national soul, and His left foot on the land, the accumulation of wealth and arms. It is written that He will subdue all things under His feet (*I Cor. 15:25-28*). Do not the end-time disciples of Jesus Christ and the members of His Church Body correspond to the feet, the ones who come into that Body at the end of the age? Thus shall the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Body, bruise Satan under the feet of His Body (*Rom. 16:20*). In

Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the feet of that image represented the final historical stage of the system which began with the head (Babylon). In the same pattern, the Church began with the Head (Jesus) and is consummated in time by the feet. We are to become those feet of the Body with which Jesus will bruise the Serpent – if we will (*Dan. 2:38-44, Eph. 1:18-23*).

In *Revelation 13*, we see a beast rising out of the “sea” (*Rev. 13:1*), and then a second beast rising out of the “land” (*Rev. 13:11*). In this application too, the mighty Angel is to be seen standing triumphantly over both that rising out of the “sea” and out of the “land.” So shall the “feet” of His Church Body in these end-times triumph over the beast and his false prophet and their rule. John saw the Angel's feet (legs) as pillars of fire. The word for pillar here is the same one used in *Revelation 3:12* where the overcomer is to be made a pillar in “the Temple of My God.” It is used also in *Galatians 2:9* and *I Timothy 3:15* in connection with the Church. The Lord will establish the strong ones in this day as pillars in His end-time Temple-Body, they having been tested and refined in fire.

:3 The mighty Angel shouts with a loud voice like the roaring of a lion; only the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Tribe of Royalty, could thus roar (*Rev. 5:5*). He is no longer meek like a sacrificial lamb, no longer as a sheep, which is dumb before her shearers (*Isa. 53:7*), as at His first coming. Now He is to come out bold as a lion and use His Kingly power and authority. When He lets out His loud “roar,” the very air becomes turbulent, the prudent virgins, a prepared Body of people, the Bride company, snap to attention and respond in a shout of joy in glorification matching His radiated power. Their seven Thunders' response is to precede a ministry to the world through a prepared people no longer meek and lamb-like before the World, but bold as a Lion with Kingly power and authority. The voice of the seven Thunders is the Bride company's answer to the Bridegroom's invitation to come up. Then from a position beside Him, she can mother the Glorious Church remaining on earth. Thunder is the response to light-generating energy. That is the response of the faithful to the Word. The “heavens” of human thought patterns are to be split apart by the power and light of the Word. When thoughts unconformed to God's plan are virtually eliminated, the coordinated thought patterns in Light come together in “thunder.” It is the separation from old thought patterns which lead to a union again in the Father's pattern (*Jer. 6:16*).

Yet the Lion and the Lamb must lie down together in every member of the Bride company (*Isa. 11:6*). To the Lord, they shall always be lamb-like, submissive, obedient, hearing only His voice. But to the world, they shall carry themselves with Kingly ruling power and with a Word ministry of spiritual vitality and dynamic liberation. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is now calling in this hour to those who have ears to hear and conform. Their acceptance is described as *seven* Thunders, coming from each of the end-time Churches (*Rev. 2, 3*).

:4 At the time of his vision, John was instructed to seal up and not write what he heard, because the answers of the seven Thunders are reserved for this end-time. However, what John sealed up, as what Daniel sealed up (*Dan. 12:4*), is now to be made known. *Our today* is the proper time. The Lord has waited longingly for this hour in which He can reveal all that has been hidden. This is the hour for which all history has waited, spoken of by the prophets, but not understood by them (*Dan. 12:7-9, Rom. 8:19*). A people prepared as submissive lambs are to partake of this end-time miracle to show God's glory and honor as in no other generation. Therefore, there is no longer

time for sleep and lethargy for those who will know the glory that has been prepared for this hour. And there is no good reason to wait and hold back from now *seeking* the Lord with the whole heart and being. Do not listen to those of the enemy who would seek to discourage and blind you to what our Lord is about to do.

Where are those who have the courage to step out onto the waters of difficulty and testing? Where are those who will walk toward Jesus with faith, knowing He alone is able to sustain and uphold in this hour, so that they may walk triumphantly above the waters of Tribulation and disturbance which shall try all men in this day? Walk, therefore, fixing your gaze steadfastly on Jesus and His plan, looking neither to the right nor to the left, and looking neither to those around you nor to the turbulent waters which would seek to engulf you. You will *never* make it to the end-time calling and awakening, unless and until you are willing by faith to step out of the boat of your present ease and security and into the stream of God's Divine purpose. Do not allow the waves of doubt and fear to overcome (*Jn. 14:27*); neither let those who prefer to stay in the boat deter. The Lord is calling for a people who dare to come, and He will have them walk on waters such as never have been before. He is calling them to meet Him as He comes in power and glory in this day.

In the Scriptures, did they not see that it was a Body walking upon the water and not a Spirit as they had supposed? And did not Peter in his body walk upon the waters (*Matt. 14:25-32*)? Similarly in this day, it is not just the spirit, but a body of flesh which shall be brought to the Lord to do exploits above the waters of human confusion and distress. You who follow Jesus are to become the Body for Christ. You are to be His flesh and bone members to *perform* what is in His mind (*Eph. 5:30*). So shall you become one with Him in this day as a Body of overcomers – those who overcome all emotional defilements of the watery recesses of the enemy – who are walking triumphantly in overcoming power. Because of such conclusive demonstration that the Lord God is ALmighty, many will desperately turn to those prepared and beg for teaching about the Way (*Isa. 55:5, Dan. 12:4*).

The hour has come to recognize that the Lord is about to move in such a way that all that has been done in the past will seem insignificant by comparison. He is about to bring people who have put their whole trust in Him and who are walking in His ways into a new realm, which is the covenanted Land of Promise. Previously, all have failed to enter, because of unbelief. The Lord is about to bring to fulfillment all that He has had in readiness since the cry went forth on the Cross, "It is finished."

Now He would have you hear another cry, *if* you will open your hearts to the Spirit's revelation and understand what the cry means. It is this: "Moses is dead." The leader who took the children of Israel through the wilderness journey, but was not permitted to enter the Promised Land, is dead. A new era has dawned for all who are the Lord's people. The Moses era of time in the wilderness is past. If you could but understand the magnitude of this revealing, you could scarcely keep from shouting for joy.

Realize that even now the Lord is prepared to bring His very own into the Promised Land of spiritual blessing and power. For those who have made themselves ready to enter into that which He has prepared, the wilderness journey is over and the testing and trials of the past 1900 years have passed. Are *you* ready? Do you fully believe that even death is no more and that His prepared ones shall enter into life for evermore? Some will not comprehend fully what is being made known, but others will grasp the

full truth. To them shall be made known the secrets which others do not know, and they shall be able to fully possess all that the Lord has made ready and available right now.

Moses, God's servant, is dead. Those who have been leaders through the wilderness phase of Church history have had their day; they are of the dying systems of the Moses era. But the Lord is raising up those who have ears to hear in a Joshua leadership. Now Joshua is taking over from Moses, for Moses is dead and can no longer lead the people of the Lord. The traditional churches of today are dead and soon to be buried in the wilderness of Tribulation impending, for they cannot enter the Promised Land. But the Lord will have a people who will enter into that Promised Land of spiritual fullness. The waters of Jordan are being turned back and the Promised Land is just ahead, even within view and near enough to be grasped. Now can be seen the beauty of the Lord's holiness, the glory of His presence, the power of His Spirit, the life abundant in the realms of His grace, and the deathless victory which is even now pressing in on those who will see and who will themselves press in to take hold of it. No one need strive, but just fully believe into and work out that which already has been prepared by the Lord (*Rev. 22:12-14*).

Joshua, a type of the guiding Holy Spirit (*Josh. 5:13-14*), sent two chosen men to go into the Land before the crossing over. There they were hidden in the flax, a type of the righteousness imparted by Christ (*Rev. 19:8*). They talked with the harlot Rahab, a type of a remnant people who are a part of the unfaithful church, but who have believed and who have begun to cooperate and who later hear the call to come out (*Jms. 4:4; Jer. 11:14-16, 12:7-11; Rev. 17:1-5, 18:4-8*). After leaving a hint of what is coming upon all who oppose the possessing of the Promised Land, the two chosen men returned to the Joshua company after 3 1/2 days, bringing a report of the goodness of the land and that it could be possessed. The two spies typify certain ministries of God's choosing who have begun to bring the report and set a vision of the "Land" before people who mean business with God.

There were two periods of 3 1/2 to 4 days during these events. The first of the two was the one night and three days used by the two spies, or witnesses (*Josh. 2:1-6, 22*). The second was the preparation period for the people following Joshua, just prior to crossing the Jordan on dry ground (*Josh. 1:11, 3:1-2*). Likewise, there should be two periods of 3 1/2 years each preceding the "crossing over" of the Firstfruits saints who have cared enough to make themselves ready for the Kingdom. The two periods shall total approximately seven years after the Lord Jesus first began what has been and is now pressing in. So prepare your hearts; the crossing over is near at hand. Work to learn the full truth about what has been the Lord's plan ever since the victory on Calvary, almost 2,000 years ago.

The priests bore the Ark into the floodstage waters of Jordan (Mighty Descender) *ahead* of the people. When the priests' feet touched the waters, they parted! The Ark represents the very Son of God who "crossed over" in power into the "Promised Land" after He Himself had won a complete victory over death and the grave. He caused the mighty descender called death to be rolled back, even as the stone was rolled from the mouth of the tomb. And He entered into the Promised Land of deathless victory where the fullness of inheritance and power were possessed. So it is also to be for the many sons, for the children of Israel followed the Ark, approximately 2,000 cubits behind (*Josh. 3:4*). Here is pictured for us what Christ is now preparing to do. Since His crossing, almost 2,000 years have passed, according to His reckoning of time. And

soon a host shall cross over “Jordan” on *dry* ground – translated from the physical to the spiritual or heavenly realm without experiencing death. And others shall follow, also crossing over on dry ground, to enter earthly physical immortality in human flesh in which death has no more power.

Shout with joy and anticipation, for Moses, God’s servant, is dead and the wilderness journey should be finished. Only the Promised Land lies ahead for all who will accept and move on this report. Already the new day is dawning for those who mean business with the Lord Jesus Christ. The new day has not dawned for the world, for the world is yet in the bondage and travail of the wilderness of testing. But for those who have eyes to see, the Promised Land is near and Joshua has been prepared to lead the elect into it. Hear the word and you, too, thoroughly sanctify (separate) yourselves, for the day of complete victory is close at hand.

:5-6 Just before the seventh Trumpet begins to sound, Jesus Christ, the mighty Angel, raises His right hand to heaven (the hand of Spirit-led action) and swears by Himself that there shall be no more time of delay or waiting. At that moment, there will be no more waiting for the contents of the little book to be revealed. It is then that the secrets of God reach their conclusion and the end-time Bride company of the seven Thunders enters her ministry. There are many secrets or mysteries in the Word of God, but all *are* to be eventually understood. During an interim period, they have been kept secret in the counsels of God, until the proper time comes for them to be made known by revelation of the Spirit (*Deut. 29:29*). In His infinite wisdom, God knows man is ready to receive only small portions of truth at a time. Therefore, much truth is hidden and veiled through parables, dark sayings and symbols in the Word so that man’s mind is not illuminated before he is ready to accept the weight of responsibility that goes with understanding, and precipitate himself into judgment (*Mk. 4:11, Jn. 16:12*). Our God is a merciful God. He reveals only that which a man is capable of receiving at the time, veiling more from view so that he will not stumble to his own hurt. To those who are ready to receive more, God gives more understanding. But those not yet ready may follow the pattern given by Mary in laying up and treasuring those things in her heart which were not immediately understood, until a more timely revealing (*Lk. 2:12,19,50*). This is also the way with the mystery veiling His Bride. God unveiled certain basic or fundamental aspects of the secrets of the Kingdom to the Apostle Paul, but other aspects have been left veiled until this end-time; it was neither necessary nor expedient to reveal them before our time (*Acts 1:6-7*).

There is another aspect of the apparent delays, perhaps more important for good understanding. In *Acts 1:7*, our Lord clearly told us that the final decision on the schedule for His Kingdom of righteousness and peace had been reserved to Himself by His Father. When He sees the developing events that are necessary to fit together, then He says, Go! Until the time of the seventh Trumpet’s blowing, the schedule is not firm – even though likely.

:7 In Scripture, a trumpet can be a symbol of a spoken message (*Isa. 58:1*). When the seventh Angel, Jesus Christ, begins to sound the Trumpet at the start of the Great Tribulation period, the secrets of the Kingdom move into the final unveiling. “In the days” indicates its blowing or its message continues over a period of time after the unfolding begins. During the extended blowing, these secrets of God shall be fulfilled and concluded, the final veil removed and the secrets concerning the Church openly declared for all to see. This is the veiled subject matter of *Ephesians 3:3-11*. Just as

Rebecca was veiled until she was taken into Isaac's tent (*Gen. 24:63-67*), our "Isaac," Christ, will lift the veil of mystery from off His Bride when He comes to meet her. Then there shall be mysteries no longer; then can all know the precise date of the end of the age.

The seventh Trumpet is described as sounding over a period of time after the mystery has been unfolded, but the one mighty event removing the final veil is the bodily transfer of the 144,000 most choice saints (*Rev. 14:1*) at its first blast. Then the "remnant" saints, as well as all who "believe" in Jesus suddenly realize they are left behind to go through the Great Tribulation. They realize that the house of the Church is broken through in the hour of the "thief in the night" (*Lk. 12:39*), and discover that the Jewels have been removed (*Mal. 3:17*). Too late, the foolish *virgins* scurry to buy more oil (*Matt. 25:1-10*), for the wise virgins, the 144,000 Firstfruits, will have been received by the Bridegroom at the midnight hour.

During these days of the seventh Trumpet blowing, only those who prepare themselves in the Lord's plan will be able to stand victoriously and help to bind the power of Satan's fury. Then shall Zion, the Church of the living God, begin to travail on earth and for 50 days there will be prayer day and night for a mighty spiritual revolution. Then on the 50th day shall Pentecost be completely fulfilled as He pours out His Spirit on all who have proven faithful (*Joel 2:28-29*). Early on that Pentecost morning (in late May to early June), no more than 1200 or 12,000, initially, will be filled with Spirit Firepower. These and others who later join them in Holy Spirit Baptism will be the ones in His Church who go forth as a mighty army with signs following, to preach the good news of the Kingdom to all nations (*Matt. 24:14*). This has not occurred in over 19 1/2 centuries! It is they who shall not have gone over the cities of Israel (Christendom) until the Son of man returns (*Matt. 10:18,23*). At the conclusion of their ministry, the final blast of the seventh Trumpet will see the fulfillment of *I Corinthians 15:51-52* and *I Thessalonians 4:13-17*, when the dead *in* Christ shall be raised and the living *in* Christ shall be changed. The consummation of this sounding will be the *Revelation 11:15* fulfillment, "And the kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Anointed, and He shall then reign to *the* ages of the ages" (Literal translation).

:8 The little book is a disappointingly small book containing the call number or vibrational pitch of each member of the Bride company. There are but 144,000 chosen to be near to Him. Thus the little book speaks of God's end-time purpose and work which is the consummation of all He has been preparing throughout many generations and ages. In His Bride will be seen the fullness of His plan consummated on the Cross. Through these 144,000 He will confirm an everlasting covenant of perfection for His people, a covenant which embodies the fullness of His glory and power for those who are especially prepared to receive. But only a few, a remnant, will come through the preparation on schedule for receiving this particular impartation of glory and power. Nevertheless, what was accomplished on Calvary was sealed or ratified and made available then. The words, "It is finished" (*Jn. 19:30*) refer to the fullness of the covenant that was at that time finished and completed worked out to right then bring a total deliverance from all the power of the enemy, and to empower a full entering in of all that Christ is ready and able to impart, including the abolition of death.

However, it is also written that they limited the Holy One of Israel (*Ps. 78:41*), and surely this speaks of Jesus Christ. God spoke through Isaiah, "Consider that which I

have done, and understand” (*Isa. 41:20*), and “Is it not prepared for you?” (*Isa. 64:4*). But men have limited Him. Full truth has been hidden for ages and generations, because men have limited Him by hardening their hearts against believing all. Thus they have failed to appropriate all that was made ready upon Calvary’s Cross. All things were ready then, the full power to overcome all the works of the enemy and the full glory prepared from the foundation of the earth for those ready to receive the truth and then live it (overcoming). But where were the people ready and prepared to fully believe? None was to be found at that time, except two, like Joshua and Caleb – again only two, as it was in the preview pattern.

If you would be enrolled in the pages of this little book of our day, prepare your hearts. Even now, the Lord is preparing a people who shall fully possess the Promised Land, who shall cross over Jordan’s flood tide, who will laugh at the forces of the mighty descender. That destroyer’s coming is with mighty signs and wonders and his working is like the rushing waters of the flooding Jordan. It is written that in this day the dragon will come as a mighty flood of death and destruction, and against the followers of Jesus Christ with a flood of lies and deceptions (*Rev. 12:15-16*). But the *careful* followers of Jesus shall not be overcome, for the Lord will cause the floodwaters to be dammed up by His mighty hand, while they cross over to possess the Land prepared.

Truly it is a good Land. God’s people now have wandered in the wilderness of spiritual desolation long enough, and a second time His people are approaching the Promised Land. God is offering His plan of preparation so you can cross over in spiritual power, but the crossing will be as a result of an absolute overcoming on earth in the pattern of Jesus.

: **10** When John had taken the little book and “eaten it,” it was sweet as honey in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach. Out of over 4 billion people on earth, 144,000 is a very small percent. But when these are found suddenly missing, other millions will approach hysteria in apprehension over ability to endure the then immediately impending Great Tribulation – bitterness in digesting the true meaning of the event. But the taking of the Bride will encourage (sweeten) the determination of many to turn their lives over to the plan of God – as His reality is made ever more evident. When, six days later, this “Martha” company returns to call “Mary who sat still,” the words from her mouth will then be bitter – against the church format accepted by man, against the political format for which man strives, and against the economic format with which man is working to resolve national and international financial problems. She will come out firmly and clearly against all perversions of *the* Faith – to the discomfort of all who have invested their lives in them as truth. She will bring great light and understanding by her teaching, but also sorrow and woe to those who see themselves left on earth. Her “mothering” will be in love, but the love will necessarily include much unpleasant discipline. Yet many will taste the honey upon hearing that responsive “Mary” too will be called out after 1260 days. The rapture of the 144,000 (a few from Palestine) will effect Israel profoundly.

: **11** After 1900+ years of inconspicuous preparation, the Apostle John himself is to suddenly appear to thunder out the midnight cry (*Matt. 25:6*). It was promised to John that he would personally proclaim the Word of God *again* to a multitude in our end-time (*Jn. 21:22*). But first, he is to announce the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Bride – three to four days before the event. Then, as one of the two *Revelation II* witnesses, he will denounce everyone and everything limiting our Lord in the fulfill-

ment of His plan. John's will be a mighty voice, hated by the world, until he is murdered toward the end of the Great Tribulation.

In this vision, John represents the end-time remnant which, along with him personally, shall speak God's Word before many peoples and nations and languages and kings – after having digested the implications in the little book. The truth of the condition of most church people today is that they are starving to death spiritually, because what food is being fed them is doing very little good. There is a famine in the land for that which will really nourish and build up (*Amos 8:11-13*). Although many church people are consuming much, all is not the true Life-giving Word of God. And *generally* speaking, the church world is sick almost to death, spending money for that which is not bread and laboring for that which does not satisfy (*Isa. 55:2; Hag. 1:4-7, 10-11*).

The guiding and clarifying of the Spirit are necessary for receiving that which is Life-giving (*Jn. 16:13, 14:26*). It is this work of the Spirit that enables a taking on of vitality from the Word and an assimilation of it into the inner being so that needed nourishment is received (*Jn. 6:63*). To seek the Lord wholly and to let the Spirit vitalize the Word within are necessary. Otherwise, what is taken in is dead and it will do nothing to bring spiritual vitality to the innermost being (*Rom. 2:13, Heb. 4:2*). It is impossible, in the present condition of the church world, for God to work by His Spirit in such a way that His Word will give life and health and deliverance to all who are in need.

There is a certain corpulence evident in the church today, but it is accompanied by spiritual anemia and weakness (*Rev. 3:17*). Do we not see our church world almost completely devoid of real spiritual energy and power? The Laodicean Church of the last era of this age is described as being fat in material things and in self-sufficiency, but weak and poor spiritually. The church world, as a whole, cannot take the things of the Spirit.

Try putting a little “water” of the Spirit (*Eph. 5:26-29*) in these church bodies or organizations. Usually pressures build up to the point of becoming intolerable. Christendom is a sick patient, and the modern church systems with their elaborate and imposing structures, their modern equipment, their highly organized programs, and their well-trained ministers and other professional help are not the answer. Our modern Doctors of Divinity do not have the answer. Much of what they are prescribing is only making the patient worse. These *things* of the church world are not wrong in themselves. They *can* be used for the glory of God. But, generally speaking, the pattern of inadequacy is true.

Our all-seeing God has provided a system for regulating all the functions of the Body, and that proper functioning is absolutely essential to the health and vigor of the Body. The Lord is showing in this end-time that it will be impossible for the Body of Christians to develop and to function properly, unless the five ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are restored to their proper place. These also may be pictured in the Body as the five main regulatory endocrine glands in the physical body. These ministers, functioning and exerting their influence among the faithful assemblies as God has planned, are necessary for maturing the saints, so *they* can properly build and strengthen the Body of Christians, until all come into unity in *the* Faith and into matured knowledge of the Son of God and into a *measure* of the stature of the fullness of Christ (*Eph. 4:12-13*).

Listen and heed what the Lord has spoken, so that your heart may be ready to receive much more of His revelation for this hour in human history.

The Two Witnesses

REVELATION 11

Here begins the description of events set in motion at the blowing of the seventh Trumpet by the Mighty Angel, Jesus Christ Himself. Here is set forth a remedial warning and testimony for all who have ears to hear and a willingness to respond, the trumpet being a symbol for a spoken message (*Isa. 58:1*). John had just been told of his assignment to make a fresh prophecy concerning the many peoples, nations and rulers (*Rev. 10:11*). He is yet, in our time, to present that Word of God, along with the others of the end-time remnant, which will motivate hundreds of thousands to repent and give over their lives as a dedicated offering to the Lord Jesus Christ.

:1 The Word of God is always to be *the* Standard for measuring rightness and truth (*Isa. 8:20, 28:16-17*). And it is the correspondence to these measurements which will determine one's placement in His program. All will have a placement and position in the working out of His objectives, whether that placement be positive or negative. The reed is a symbol of the Lord's administration, and all followers of Jesus, they being the Temple of God in this age, must come into God's measurements before leaving the Altar of Sacrifice on earth.

:2 Therefore, by the Word comes a dividing of the people. Jesus spoke previously of His coming (He is the Word), not to legislate peace between men and nations, but to first bring about division and separation for purifying (*Lk. 12:49-52*). That which is not and cannot be useful to Him in bringing about the establishment of His Kingdom on earth and then in the heavenlies must be separated off. Always in His pattern is the bringing in of His life (symbolized by the numeral 1). Then immediately there is the dividing and separating (symbolized by the numeral 2) so that the purity of the spoken Word can be received (symbolized by the numeral 3). That is done so there can be maturing and fruitfulness on the earth plane (symbolized by the numeral 4). The separation is to take place within each person and then, of course, the separation will take place within groups.

You who are learning to follow Christ wherever He goes are of the contemporary spiritual Israel, the loyal Church of Christ. Within, there is a separating process at work. It is the chopping out and cutting down through personal overcoming, to be capped with a burning out of the self-life by the consuming fire of God (*Matt. 3:10-11*), so there may be a possession of peace ("Jerusalem"), the establishment for God's rule in the human heart (*Heb. 12:27-29*). Likewise, the Sanctuary or Temple, the developing corporate Body of Christ, must experience this division of what is useful from what is not, before possessing peace ("Jerusalem," the permanent Throne position of Jesus Christ). All in the Sanctuary are to be measured by the Standard of God's Word. Here we see the courtyard outside the Sanctuary is not to be measured; nothing to measure. Those outside are separated off because they are not in the Father's business (Gentiles).

Those of the nations which refuse to give themselves constructively to the purposes of the Creator will then continue to trample "Jerusalem" underfoot (literal and figurative Jerusalem) for the remainder of the age. But the result for them will be opposite to the possession of peace – a total nuclear holocaust of fire. The modern city of Jerusalem is not yet seen by the Lord as His Sanctuary City and so it is to be given to the Gentiles to be overrun by anti-Christian peoples for 42 months.

The days of the seventh Trumpet's blowing bring the unveiling of God's hidden purposes. Although the events of the end-time have been announced through His servants, the Prophets, they have not been understood by the clergy – and their followers. But as always, the Word is confirmed through at least two witnesses (*Jn. 8:17, Deut. 19:15, II Cor. 13:1*). These two will have the power of prophecy during 1260 days and are seen dressed in sackcloth, garbed in humiliation and in a renouncing of every selfish desire. They symbolize their complete availability to Jesus Christ, but also they symbolize judgments and sorrows which they prophesy will be experienced within this period of time. This particular 1260 day period starts with the sudden appearing in Jerusalem of the two witnesses in person, and it is terminated by their murder. A second 1260 day period then also initiates three to four days after the two witnesses appear. This second period starts with the "birth" and translation of the Manchild Firstfruits. And it concludes with the final taking up to be with the Lord in the clouds of all who have fulfilled the minimum requirements for attending His marriage feast (*Rev. 12:5*).

The Greek word for witness used here, in its primary application to the two, is a word carrying the meaning of one who earlier was present and participated. It is to be applied in the same way the word is used in *I Peter 5:1, Luke 24:48, and Revelation 1:5*. Each of the uses of this word in the New Testament indicates the testifying to a first-hand experience – not hearsay. Therefore, in like manner, these two witnesses must yet present to a self-centered and contemptuous world their perfectly supported testimony of having personally known the man Jesus Christ, seen His crucifixion and resurrection, and experienced His deliverance from all the works of the devil – even to the overcoming of physical death. Surely such a testimony, supported by the power of God, will bring both great joy and great consternation among a people caught in the Great Valley of Decision (*Joel 3:12-16*). In these two will there be the validation that the Lord Jesus Christ was indeed who He said He was, that what He claimed to have made available 2,000 years ago was indeed available then, and that all who in any way hinder a man from possessing preservation of both soul and physical body from death are but liars and frauds. These two will be on display to openly manifest the beginnings of the Kingdom of God on earth.

:4 The two witnesses are shown as two olives or olive fruit clusters. Of course, olives are produced by an olive tree. In Scripture, a tree depicts a strong individual. The root of the olive tree is the Lord Jesus (*Rev. 5:5*). The olive tree is also used to describe Jesus Christ. He is the olive tree supporting the many branches which have returned to Christ (*Rom. 11:17-24*). All the New Covenant branches have had to be grafted in because of the earlier rejection of Jesus Christ by the natural branches, but by His mercy and grace, the branches will soon include both Christians (from the nations) and Jews, before the Harvest ingathering (*Rom. 11:25-28*). These olives are also the fountain for the oil which is the anointing of the Holy Spirit for all who actively believe.

We see the two witnesses additionally picture two lampstands; but lampstands differ

from olives from which the oil in the fruit is produced. Lampstands use oil to continually shine out light to others. Therefore, the two witnesses, in addition to representing two individuals, represent two groups that are filled with the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit and are able to impart truth and understanding to others. They represent two groups whose members use the impartation of the oil to send out a strong, steady and bright light to be received by all who will be willing to see and receive. The same prophecy was given about 520 B.C. to Zechariah (*Zech. 4*), which illustrated the feeding of the oil from the olive fruit to the then one lampstand (the Jewish nation-Church). The two olive fruits (two individuals) and the two lampstands (*Rev. 11:4* two groups) testify throughout the Great Tribulation period of 3 1/2 years. The oil from the fruit feeds the true Church of Christ then developing among the modern nations and Israel. The oil is consumed and makes Light shine out into the darkness of the times. This is the Light which totally overcomes the darkness.

From one perspective, the olive is seen as a symbol of Israel after the flesh, the Chosen People of Israel (*Rom. 11:17,14*). And so the two witnesses and two olives, in the first application, are a type of two men who are Israelites by race and Christians by grace. These are two men who can witness firsthand – no other is truly a witness – to being with and knowing Jesus Christ almost 2,000 years ago. These are two men who witnessed His crucifixion and saw Him resurrected in new Life (*Acts 10:39-42*). Therefore, they are also another and contemporary confirmation by two witnesses that death was truly and fully abolished by Christ's completed work of liberation from *all* the effects of sin almost 2,000 years ago. Through these two, God will demonstrate beyond the shadow of doubt that the necessity of death was fully abolished when the Son of God died on the Cross. He showed the pattern in the Old Testament.

When the nation of Israel was delivered from Egypt, a type of the world ruled by Satan, by the blood of the passover lamb, a type of Jesus Christ, a quick and easy access was made available into the Promised Land by way of Mt. Sinai. All that was required of the people was belief in and response to the facts that all things had been made ready, and that the Lord would surely drive out the enemy and give them a land flowing with milk and honey. But they did not believe and so did not enter in and possess their inheritance. They rebelled in their hearts and turned back, refusing to possess what had been made available. Nevertheless, there were *two* who did fully believe. And these two did not receive the sentence which fell upon the others. Joshua and Caleb did not die in the wilderness as did the others. They continued to live throughout the wilderness journey of testing and proving and then entered into their promised inheritance. Through this living drama, the Lord shows that He is fully able to preserve those who put their trust completely in Him.

The fulfillment of the pattern came with Jesus Christ. The actual "Passover Lamb" was slain when Jesus died on the Cross, providing deliverance from the bondage of sin and death. By His sacrifice, the way was opened to proceed into the "Promised Land" for all who would fully believe. The Promised Land was an entrance into life without the experience of a physical death. (Man's physical body is made from the elements of land or earth.) He was ready right then to grant immortality to those who would fully believe His Word, to give not only undying life to the soul, but also immortality to the physical body (*Jn. 8:51-52, 11:26*). The earlier pattern in the wilderness was a true one, and later it was fulfilled within that generation which received the good news of the Kingdom of God. But true to the pattern, there was again a general failure to fully

believe all the Prophet had spoken. Again there was the failure of intelligent people to take upon themselves all which He had provided and a failure to fully appropriate the Promised Land of deathless life then made available. The wilderness was a type of this world. And, as the children of Israel died in the wilderness because of unbelief, so have the people of this world continued to die ever since that generation to which Jesus came refused to fully enter into all that was provided when He died upon the Cross.

For over 1900 years, the Church of Christendom has been in the wilderness of testing and proving, and the carcasses of all have fallen – all, that is, except two – two again who fully believed and thereby received their promised inheritance. These two shall now emerge to give indisputable testimony to the fact that death *was* abolished when the price was fully paid on the Cross. These two witnesses have been living on earth for over 1900 years, hidden away until the time appointed for their testimony.

Their message will be the midnight cry (*Matt. 25:1-10*). No ordinary or casual servant will be assigned to enunciate the most important statement of fact since Jesus shouted out, “It is finished.” Nor will it be a disunited voice from any collection of denominations or other movements which shall succeed in rousing the slumbering virgin Christians. Today, even yet, there is appallingly little spiritual light among the Lord’s servants. The virgins themselves are drowsily giving but little attention to what is going on around them. Neither are the people hearing, even though the midnight hour is close at hand. However, when the midnight cry is voiced, then shall the virgins immediately scramble to their feet and hastily make preparation to meet the Bridegroom. The midnight cry is certain to be something out of the ordinary, with Spirit power to move people. It is a shout with the power to electrify the true Church and cause the virgins to jump up. It is a cry so unique that it will be featured in the news media of all Christendom. It will carry conviction to all disciples of Jesus Christ and it will stir the world as no event has for over 1900 years.

In the Old Testament, the Egyptian experience of the midnight cry was a preview for the world today. There was a *great* cry throughout *all* the land of Egypt (*Ex. 11:4-6*). At that time too, there were two witnesses before Pharaoh, Moses and Aaron, just prior to the *Chosen* People being taken out of Egypt and being led toward the Promised Land. That *night*, every Israelite home had the blood of the lamb applied to its doorway. About midnight, the angel came to take *away* the firstborn in every house not so protected. Later in time, God’s great Deliverer, Jesus Christ, as the true Witness, stood before the rulers of His land and they would not hear Him. And *His* blood was shed as the Lamb of God. As a result, whoever has applied and does apply that blood to his “house” in the midst of the darkness of our age is under God’s care. And soon the bondage of “Egypt” will be broken for some of our generation, bringing a spectacular entrance into the “Land of Promise.”

The midnight cry in Egypt had to do with the exercise of God’s power in deliverance from a rule of gross iniquity for all who had taken safety under the blood of the slain lamb. Today, there will again be weeping in the “Egypt” which is our world, when the truly Firstborn among families of men shall be taken away from them (figuratively *slain*) by a mighty move of God (*Heb. 12:23*). It is the cry at midnight which announces the hour in which the Lord comes secretly as a thief to snatch away the Firstfruits (they become the “firstborn” of the living into the heavenlies). At that time, He breaks through the “house” (*Lk. 12:39*); and the household, which is the Church (*Eph. 2:19*),

will suddenly miss the most prized of gems. Then it will dawn upon the household why Jesus spoke of the thief in the night and the house broken through. Then will be seen the foolishness of many who are virgin to Christ in having clean but empty vessels. With empty vessels, there could not be the continually pure, white shining light with which they could go out into the midnight darkness. Then will come an understanding of God's declaration of His taking a redeemed 144,000 company from earth as the *Firstfruits* for God and for the Lamb (*Rev. 14:1-4*). Then will the clear inference of a *later* maturing of the other virgins be understood.

Since every word of truth is to be established by two or more witnesses (*Deut. 17:6, Matt. 18:16*), it would be inconsistent for this world-disturbing midnight cry to be voiced by a lone messenger. Two are necessary. As there had to be a preparation message for the Lord's first coming, so again there must be a special proclamation of the Bridegroom's imminent return. Two witnesses shall speak the word of preparation during the 1260 days.

Now we can extend these insights into a more detailed application. In *Zechariah 4:3, 11-14*, these two witnesses are two olive branches which furnish oil through two golden tubes to the lampstand. Jesus also said, "you are the branches" (*Jn. 15:5*). Therefore, we can understand that a tree is a founder or Father (like Abraham or Jesus – *Hos. 14:8*) and the branches are then lesser individuals developing out of that individual or nation. There is one olive branch on the right and one on the left, indicating one for spiritual Israel and one for physical or earthly Israel (the Jews). Being two branches proceeding from the olive tree, these two branches, therefore, become two men of Jewish extraction, one of them standing up primarily for the Spirit-born Church of Christ (right lampstand), and the other standing up primarily for the Jewish national Church (left lampstand), which remains beloved for their fathers' sakes (*Zech. 4:14*). The right types the spiritually active; the left types the spiritually regressive, the physical or natural. Among His Disciples, Jesus said some would not taste death *until* they see the Kingdom of God with power (*Mk. 8:38, 9:1; Lk. 9:26-27*). "Some" meant more than one, and it meant Jews who were with Him then. To date the Kingdom has not come with power, or else for what are we waiting?

The Lord Jesus spoke specifically of a certain one who would tarry until the Lord would come. The Disciples understood what Jesus meant and they publicized the knowledge (*Jn. 21:21-24*). The fact that John himself did not understand the full meaning of the words, not even when he wrote the record, does not change the fact that they were spoken. But he did fully understand later, and he did fully enter into what was required of him so he might remain on earth to give testimony to the Truth. According to the words of Jesus (let them replace men's ideas and opinions), John the Beloved is still alive and active today. Others in the Bible have had long lives, but they aged and became decrepit. When John realized his God-given opportunity, even though old, he began to grow younger. His form is as mature as the crags, but his body has the suppleness and the vibrant energy of youth. We have legends of the detailed manner and place of death of the other eleven Apostles, violent-deaths, but there is no report at all about John's supposed death. It has only been surmised that he must have died of old age on Patmos – or elsewhere.

What of his companion, the second witness? Who is he? The Lord did command ministry by pairs (*Mk. 6:7*). It was on one other occasion, and only one, that the Lord

Jesus spoke words which paralleled those He spoke to John. The words themselves were different words, but they were packed full with the same meaning. Jesus said in the presence of Martha and Mary, "*Loose him and let him go*" (*Jn. 11:44*). Jesus always conformed everything He said and did to basic patterns. He also said, "*If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed*" – not partly free and partly bound (*Jn. 8:36*). Jesus spoke the words before the tomb, not just from the perspective of that moment and the loosing of the wrappings around the physical body, but He spoke from the center of His own Divine consciousness of the purpose which was in store for Lazarus. Martha and Mary received and understood only the surface meaning, but the Lord had already enacted the inner and full meaning of His words. He first Himself had to conform the scene to the pattern of the words before He could speak them as an order. Unless Jesus Himself would loose this man and see to it that he would go free, it would have been impossible for Him to issue His order to the sisters. Previously, He had removed the spiritual weight and barrier so Lazarus could stand up in resurrection. He then ordered that the stone be taken away, even as such a stone was later to be removed from His own tomb.

There is no other person in the record of Scripture, in addition to John, who could possibly have been indicated as the second witness. Lazarus came forth to live on through the age, for he understood and believed in immortal life, even in his physical body, once he had been fully instructed in what was his rightful inheritance. Lazarus ("whom God helps") stands for the Jewish nation. When raised to life again, Lazarus had been "dead" four days. Into our time, the Jewish nation has remained essentially "dead" to God during the 4,000 years since Abram. To God 1,000 years is as a day. Lazarus did not have a job to do among the Jews then, because of their disbelief. His job was to come later. Now that nation will live to fulfill God's promise to Abraham.

Therefore, we understand there are two contemporary witnesses to the life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, alive and ready to testify. They are John the Beloved and Lazarus, whom Jesus loved.

The Lord's purpose will not be thwarted by man's unbelief and rebellion; He will again show the immutability of His Word in this last day. None shall be able to stand against what He will do. He will bring out the two immortals He has kept in hiding for all to see, and they shall speak His Word with power. Before that time, most will choose not to believe, but for those who still wonder, a few other references to physical immortality are: *John 6:57-58, 8:51-52, 11:26; Romans 2:6-7, 8:13,23,29; II Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 2:14-15*.

The two olive branches type two individuals. Rather obviously, the olive branches must precede those who are to become lamps, because they provide the oil for the lamps, which could not be lighted without the oil flowing through the golden pipes. The oil of *Zechariah 4:6* symbolizes the spirit or will to do the will of God, as encouraged by the Holy Spirit. The producer of oil can only be one who serves the Lord completely, bringing forth the flow which then is the fuel for much light of understanding. These are the two anointed ones who stand before the Lord of the whole earth (*Zech. 4:12-14*).

But note again that one of the olive branches shall stand on the right and one on the left. The right stands for the active and predominant, while the left stands for the recessive and secondary. Both are anointed to come forth in power at the very beginning of

the Tribulation period. Then shall follow very shortly the lampstand anointed companies which begin to operate in power just after the Tribulation period initiates. But the right side olive branch shall deliver a greater message with farther reaching truths than the other, even as the right takes precedence over the left. The pronouncements of the two olive branches are then to be followed by the appearance of two lampstand church groups.

The right lampstand will be the Glorious Church initiated at the second Pentecost. The left lampstand will develop among the Jewish followers of Christ, among the seed of Abraham. Out of the people known as the Jews, shall a converted 144,000 group be sealed as a lamp to other Jews. During the Tribulation, there shall be many of the physical seed of Abraham who shall turn to the Lord and become a mighty witness to the Truth.

After the earth-bound 144,000 company of Jews has been sealed and anointed as the lampstand on the left, the light of understanding from the Lord will shine out through those who are sealed (*Rev. 7:2-4*). They shall be used by the Lord to light a flame among their own people, and the Church numbers will expand among fully committed Jews during the whole Tribulation period. This lampstand shall receive a measure of the power and anointing to be upon the Glorious Church of Christendom. Both lampstands will light up and burn brightly as multitudes turn to the Lord.

The workings of the Lord through the anointed ones shall bring about the greatest spiritual revolution the world has ever seen. A mighty witness is about to be raised. Each person in these select lampstand groups, each member, is by then an overcomer in measure, and is to be sealed. Although God's sealing provides several benefits, the receiving of the benefits is not automatic. The receiving depends upon the continuing personal willingness, faithfulness, and obedience to the Lord. The sealing provides for the authority to speak God's Word in power, absolute protection physically – even against death – a supply for every need – physical or spiritual – and God's presence and fellowship, walking and talking with Him as Adam did.

:6 Therefore, the testimony and ministry of the members of the groups are to be accompanied with great signs and wonders (*Jn. 14:12, Acts 2:19*).

:7 The two olive branch individuals, John and Lazarus, have chosen to voluntarily yield up their lives for the sake of the Gospel, as Jesus did. And each overcomer member in the groups they symbolize may also volunteer to do the same. All who desire the greater reward of the martyr's crown will be willing to give their lives (*Ps. 50:5*). But the giving is voluntary, since their lives will be protected once they have been sealed, provided they continue into the Lord's purposes in trust, faithfulness and obedience.

:9-11 Then, as did Jesus Christ, John and Lazarus will again take up their lives after 3 ½ days of lying lifeless on a Jerusalem street, and they will head up the great Harvest to be translated at that time. That will be an early morning in September.

:12 Prior to the formation of the lampstand groups, there are those of the heavenly 144,000 company who have previously laid their lives on the Altar as a living sacrifice while still in the earthly physical body. This company is the first loaf from the single sheaf, taken ahead of the time of Great Tribulation, without the physical body dying. Jesus Christ became the Firstfruit from among the dead and, through Him, all *in* Christ

shall be made alive, each in his own rank and turn. After Jesus Christ, come the 144,000 heaven-bound Firstfruits of all still living. This is the Bride Company. Subsequently, He will take a host of those remaining, those who are “in Christ,” at His coming (*I Cor. 15:20-23*). It is at the end of the Great Tribulation’s 3 1/2 years, that the prepared Harvest host is translated. First, those who have previously died “in Christ” rise, to be immediately followed by translated overcomers who will not experience physical death (*I Cor. 15:51-54, I Thess. 4:13-18*).

: *13* Synchronizing with the taking up of the Harvest company is a tremendous literal, as well as figurative, earthquake. Vast forces are released by the call to come up and the earth will shudder. Then the climaxing wrath of God will engulf the world and virtually all the rejectors of Christ die (*Acts 3:23*). Spiritually young Christians still alive are brought into the Millennium. Earth life again for the less prepared dead occurs *after* the Millennium (*Rev. 20:5*).

Much has been written about the possibility of Elijah being one of the *Revelation 11* witnesses, although it is not well-founded in Scripture. In the Old Testament era, God did promise to send the Prophet Elijah before the Day of the great-and-to-be-revered-Lord, a day of coming to the light or revealing. He was to preach repentance in advance of the Lord’s coming, in order to set aright the relationships between “Parent and child” lest the Lord come and “*smite the land with a curse*” (*Mal. 4:5-6*). But the angel also said of John the Baptist that he would go before Jesus *in the spirit* and power of Elijah to prepare many, and that he would be controlled by the Holy Spirit even in and from his mother’s womb, indicating an already attained spiritual maturity at a very early physical age (*Lk. 1:15-17*). When Jesus was asked about Elijah’s return, He affirmed the *Malachi 4:5* prophecy that Elijah does come first (the Greek verb tense means in the now – specifically not future) and does completely restore (not at all future tense in the Greek). Jesus told His Disciples this prophecy had already been fulfilled (*Matt. 17:10-13*).

However, Jesus did not really indicate that Elijah would restore anything. The Greek word so translated means “away from institutions or conditions, or the going away from man-appointed conditions of government or rule.” Peter later elaborated on this by saying that the heavens had to receive and hold the Christ until man relinquishes his folly through man-made governments, ecclesiastical as well as political (*Acts 3:21*). Specifically, Elijah, as John the Baptist, restored no single thing, but he did call for repentance and for a *revolution* to God-control in the human heart. He corrected the hearts of multitudes and in their hearts he straightened the way for his Lord so that Jesus Christ would find a path in human hearts already blazed. Otherwise, should the Lord not find any hearing of His ever so vital good news in a rebellious and insensitive people, He would be grieved enough to “*smite the land with a curse*” (*Mal. 4:6*).

Elijah was seen to depart in a fiery chariot and the rulers of Israel had expected to see him return in much the same way (*Matt. 27:49*). Therefore, they all missed his coming. This expectation was also illustrated when they asked John the Baptist if he might be Elijah. They expected to see the same physical body which Elijah had at the earlier time. John, a priest’s son, knew this. But he also knew of the prophecies and the facts of his own birth. He answered, on the basis of the question put to him, that his was not that physical body of Elijah (*Jn. 1:21-23*, compare *Isa. 40:3* and *Mal. 4:6*). None of the prophetic Word spoke of the physical body of Elijah returning. The Word spoke of

the spirit of Elijah (*Lk. 1:15-17*).

When Elijah was taken in the chariot of fire, he was taken without seeing death. His soul had received temporary preservation from death through the God-appointed rites of animal sacrifice. Therefore, the Elijah spirit retained the garment of his soul and that soul was still his vestment when the Elijah spirit entered the babe born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. The new soul forces of the new babe were then merged into the older and matured soul which clothed the Elijah spirit. There was no discard of that soul which was older and so there was no occasion for the new to replace it. On the other hand, because this Elijah spirit and matured soul entered the babe to be born to Zechariah, the evidence was given that the earlier physical body of Elijah had been discarded and disintegrated in favor of the new form. The prophecy concerning the return of Elijah was thus fulfilled in advance of the revealing of Jesus Christ.

It has been seen again and again that God conforms all things to His basic patterns. Jesus said He is the Way. If He is the Way, then the way He lived is to be the way for the members of His Body of Christians to live (*I Jn. 2:4-6*). In the same way in which He demonstrated Himself individually as the Head, so is He now seeking to demonstrate Himself in a Body, a corporate Body of many members (*Rom. 8:29*). In the same manner in which His personal manifesting or revealing was preceded by an individual John the Baptist, so a multi-membered group in our day has engaged in preparation of the hearts of a multitude. As John the Baptist called men to conform to the Good News of Christ's personal ministry, so many today have been calling for multitudes to prepare for the revealing or manifesting of the anointed Firstfruits 144,000 company from within the Church of Christ. Just as did the individual Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, so will the 144,000 company subsequently demonstrate the full rule of God in the overcoming of the works of the devil. As Sons of God, they will work to free creation from bondage to Satan and to death (*Rom. 8:19-23*). John the Baptist renounced any hold of the world upon him and preached repentance and a going away from man-instituted organizations and a coming into God rule within the human heart, as preparation for the coming of the first manifested Son of God. So also is a multi-membered "John the Baptist group" in this end-time taking up a ministry of preparing human hearts for the unveiling of the manifested Sons of God. As there was a revealing of Jesus the Christ as *the* Son of God, so is there now to be a focus on the Sons, a many membered portion of the Church of Christ which has overcome the world, the devil and death. Just as Jesus, the Son of God, returned during a period of 40 days in His glorified body after having ascended to the Father, so will fully prepared Sons of God return in their glorified bodies during a period of 40 days (possibly 40 months). They too will teach and guide a prepared remnant on earth to benefit all who would seek the Lordship of Jesus Christ (*Mal. 3:17-18*).

Many previews of this end-time drama have been shown in the Bible. Within the pattern of accomplishment, there must first be an enlightening and next a preparation. The work itself can then follow and progress toward completion. The sequence is repetitively duplicated in the record ever since the fall of Adam. So we can derive our examples from many portions of the Scripture, and our examples do not all need to be in an historical sequence.

The true Church of this end-time, though much defiled, is of those called out of the "Egypt" of the world. Among those are the ones enlightened who correspond to an

Aaron group, for *enlightened* is the meaning of the name. But Aaron was the older brother in the family. Today also, a Moses leader group will emerge after the Aaron individuals become evident, corresponding to Moses as the chosen leader of the called-out ones. The name Moses means drawn from the water, and water symbolizes soul desires and emotions outside of the control of the spirit. The Moses group comes forth later, but nonetheless functions as the leadership of that portion of the Church of Christ which *becomes* the Glorious Church. It is a group chosen to demonstrate the qualities of Jesus Christ, for He is called the first of many brothers.

The following several interesting relationships of the end-time developments with the patterns shown in the Old Testament may be too complex to follow without referring to charts. On the chart for Spiritual Israel (page 238), we see the beginning of the end-time developments in the True Church among the nations. This Body is made up of those described by the Lord as the ten virgins, ten referring to the nations. Within this very small Body is also the "Aaron" company with valid Holy Spirit Baptism. There are three portions derived from the True Church through the preparatory work of "John the Baptist" ministers – not necessarily members of the clergy. The first portion consists of the fully dedicated to the Lord, those who choose to live for Christ. This portion can be thought of as an "Isaac" group, the one begotten for the specific purpose. Isaac was a type for Christ and the name means joy. The Father said of Jesus that in Him He was well pleased. For the same reason, this group can be seen as the five wise Virgins who went out to meet and stay with the Lord.

Because of specially loving Him, this group is to become His Bride. *Revelation 12:5* describes this group as the *first* Manchild born out of the Church, glorified and caught up to God and the Throne; *Revelation 14:1,4* designates the group as the 144,000 *Firstfruits* for God and the Lamb. Also, as our Lord was the Firstfruit from the dead, so this wholly dedicated group is the Firstfruits among the living. Because these 144,000 are to be taken from the Church on earth as by a thief in the night, they duplicate the pattern of Enoch. Enoch walked with God and was not. No one saw him go. It happened that they looked for him and he was not. Enoch was a preview type for the Manchild, 144,000 company. As Christ's Bride, they will have a job to do among the younger Christians remaining on earth during the Great Tribulation (*Mal. 3:18*). This 144,000 is the first loaf of *Leviticus 23:17*, baked with the leaven in today's church world, but set apart for and waved before the Lord. Because of her bearing unadulterated Truth from the Throne, she will be seen as the Standard for rallying against the enemy (*Isa. 59:19*). For the same reason she will be seen as the Temple pillar named Jachin – "He will establish" (*1 Ki. 7:21*).

The second portion of the True Church is seen representatively in the right-side olive-branch, 1900+ year old John the Beloved. He also types Joshua living through the wilderness of testing. This portion furnishes the leadership for the True Church in the wilderness and so can be seen as the right-side "Moses." This portion, along with John, is the first witness of *Revelation 11:6*. Because of not being sufficiently matured to be numbered with the Bride of Christ, the members of this portion are identified with the five foolish virgins, who could have made themselves ready, but did not.

Early in the Great Tribulation period, they become the right-side lampstand, the Aaron group of the enlightened who have waited the 50 days for the Great Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the latter rain Pentecost. This is the *Revelation 12:17* smaller remnant

The "Moses" group is the God-chosen leader of the earth. It appears after the "Aaron" company, but the "Aaron" company is chosen by "Moses."

SPIRITUAL ISRAEL

True Church among nations, including the 10 virgins and the "Aaron" company with the valid Holy Spirit Baptism

Isaiah 40:1-3, Luke 1:17, Matthew 17:10-13 "John the Baptist" ministry, preparing for the manifesting of the Firstfruits of the Body of Christ (Rom. 8:19).

Fully dedicated "Isaac" group - the one begotten for the purpose.

The 144,000 group of the Revelation 14 Firstfruits. The "Enoch" group of heavenly Firstfruits.

THE BRIDE COMPANY

The first loaf, Leviticus 23:17, waved before the Lord.

Rightside Olive Branch, John, the type of Joshua, who lived through the wilderness of testing. The rightside "Moses" leader of the "Church in the wilderness." The first Witness of Revelation 11:6. The 5 foolish virgins.

Rightside Lampstand Group. The "Aaron" company which waits 50 days for the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The initiators of the "Elijah" group.

ministry to feed the woman

The rightside woman of Christendom in the "wilderness." Revelation 12:6

ministry Malachi 3:18

The standard (Isa. 59:19) "Jachin" - 'he shall establish' (I Ki. 7:21).

Rightside "Boaz" - cheerful, lively contented (I Ki. 7:21).

The constantly enlarging Glorious Church. The Isaiah 30:26 seven-fold sun.

THE HARVEST COMPANY

At the end of the age (Matt. 13:39), the prepared Harvest company, having become the greater fulfillment of the "Elijah" group, leaves its mantle to the then still earth-bound "Elisha" group which lives on into the Millennium (Lev. 23:22).

The few who see the "Elisha" host go up will immediately receive the double portion - power poured out and immortality on earth. Others of the "Elisha" group will enter into their double portion later (II Ki. 2:2).

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Harvest into the Heavenly Kingdom.

group which will exercise itself in the power of Jesus Christ, doing the works He did and greater works (*Jn. 14:12*). Initially, there are perhaps only 1200 in this group, or, at the most, 12,000. These are the initiators of the vast host of the Harvest taken at the end of the Tribulation, the “Elijah” host (“my God is Yahweh”) taken without seeing death (*II Ki. 2:11*).

When the right-side lampstand starts burning the oil provided, it will light the way for a multitude. Many will see the holy flame and will turn to God through Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body. Their faith will be firmly based in *the* Faith, and so they will function as the Temple pillar named Boaz – cheerful, lively, contented (*I Ki. 7:21*). The initiators and those joining them become the rapidly enlarging Glorious Church. The light of the early Christian Church was likened to that of the sun, but the light of the Glorious Church will grow in intensity to the light equivalent of seven suns, seven being the number of the *faithful* Church, and will become a mighty host (*Isa. 30:26, Rev. 7:9*).

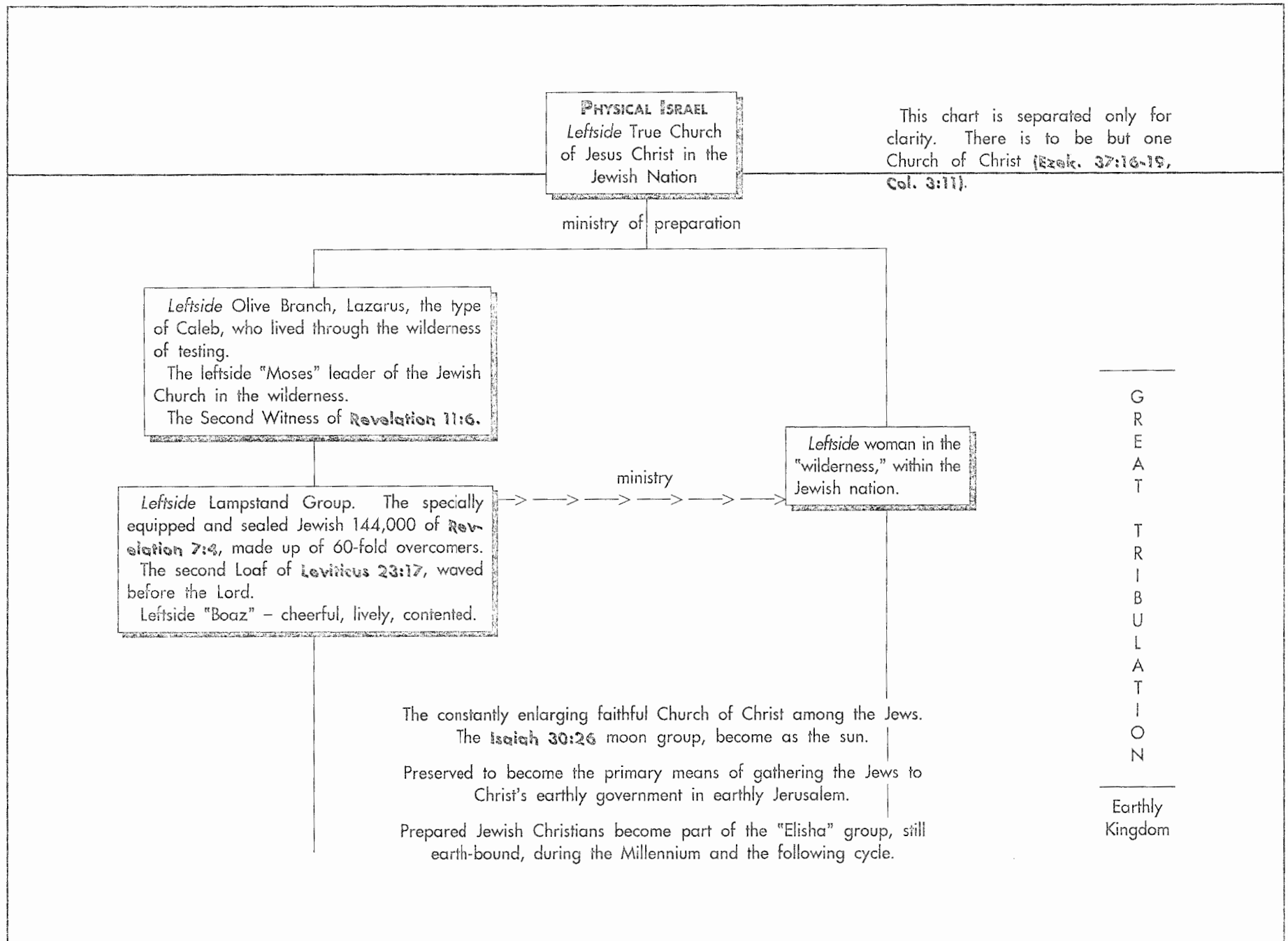
At the end of the age, the prepared Harvest Company is taken up in clouds to be with the Lord. Having become the greater fulfillment of the Elijah drama-prophecy, it will leave its mantle of power to the then still earth-bound “Elisha” group which continues to live on earth into the Millennium (*Matt. 13:39, Lev. 23:22*). The very few who see the “Elijah” host go up will immediately receive the double portion, power poured out and immortality on earth. Others of the “Elisha” group (“God is my preservation”) will receive their double portion later (*II Ki. 2:9-14*).

The third portion of the True Church is seen as the right-side “woman” in the wilderness of Christendom. She is to be fed and sustained during the 1260 days of the Great Tribulation and have every opportunity to add to the growth of the Glorious Church (*Rev. 12:13-16*). Of course, her numbers will be substantially depleted by desertions to the Glorious Church. Those who have faithfully followed the leaders in the Glorious Church to the end, but are then not yet qualified to be part of it, will be included in the “Elisha” group remaining on earth into the Millennium.

First the Lord shows His pattern and His prelude, then He brings the reality of the pictures shown. The Old and New Testaments give the previews and then comes the consummation of this age in a demonstrated victory over all that Satan and his hosts can bring against the Body of Christians, including victory over physical death.

The preview for the developing True Church of Christ in physical Israel, the modern Jewish nation, is almost the same, though the parallels are not identical. The application is separated here only to clarify, for the developing True Church on earth is eventually to become a single Body of Christians (*Ezek. 37:16-19, I Cor. 12:13*). On the chart for Physical Israel (page 240), we see the beginning of the end-time developments in the True Church of Christ among the Jewish people. Here too, there is a ministry of preparation, but its result is a little behind the developments in Christendom. It is a “left-side” development in a lesser measure and on a lower level, leaving some catching up for physical Israel during the Kingdom Age. The spiritual level to be attained here initially is that of regenerated life, 60-fold, not 100-fold. There are two portions derived from this True Church of Christ through the preparatory work of “John the Baptist” ministers – not necessarily any of the Rabbis’.

The first portion is seen representatively in the left-side olive branch, 1900+ year old



Lazarus. He also types Caleb living through the wilderness of testing. This portion furnishes the leadership for the True Church of Christ in the Jewish wilderness and so can be seen as the left-side "Moses." This portion, along with Lazarus, is the second witness of *Revelation 11:6*. Also, we might see Lazarus as the first witness to Israel and the leader group as the second witness. Early in the Great Tribulation period, this becomes the left-side lampstand group, the specially equipped and sealed Jewish 144,000 made up of 60-fold overcomers (*Rev. 7:4*). The light of this lampstand is to continually increase, because it has been prepared to show the ways of the Lord to the Jewish nation. This group is the second loaf of *Leviticus 23:17*. Whether its members will be taken up, instructed by the Lord and then returned is not clear. But because their faith will be firmly based on *the Faith*, they will function as the Temple pillar named Boaz, a left-side Boaz (cheerful, lively, contented). When the left-side lampstand begins to burn the oil provided, it will light the way for many Jewish people who will turn to Jesus Christ as their true Messiah. The faithful Church of Christ among the Jews will constantly enlarge; and what has been a moon group among them, reflecting a distorted light from the sun, shall become as the sun (*Isa. 30:26*).

The members of this True Church of Christ will be continually ministering to the Jewish woman in the wilderness (the second portion of the True Church among the Jews) and she will be constantly contributing to the faithful Church. This faithful Church will be preserved so it can provide the primary means for gathering more Jewish people into Christ's earthly government to be centered in earthly Jerusalem. The heavenly situation is the pattern for the earthly (*Heb. 9:23, Matt. 6:10*). The 144,000 heavenly Firstfruits initiate the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in the New Jerusalem above. The 144,000 Jews sealed by God are to initiate the Kingdom of Jesus Christ in the Jerusalem in Palestine. Doubtless there may be some previously prepared Jewish Christians who will be part of the great host of the Harvest taken out of the nations at the close of the Great Tribulation, but not the specific 144,000 of the Jewish group. Later, prepared Jewish Christians will become part of the "Elisha" group, still earth-bound, during the Millennium and the following cycle.

The two witness groups are people prepared to participate in the culminating work of the Lord in these last days of the age, even as the new age is dawning. Since the two witnesses are clothed in sackcloth, each of those who would serve must be dressed in voluntary humiliation, renouncing every self-serving desire and way and making himself completely available to our Lord for whatever use He would make of him. Those He will use will have to come to a place of complete brokenness to self-will before Him. They will desire nothing but to do His will. They will aspire to nothing in this world, willing to renounce everything for the sake of the Gospel. Many will give up houses, lands, business, friends and relatives, in order to follow Jesus all the way in everything. He will show them, for there will be much opposition from the world.

The control over the elements and the miracles performed by the witnesses are the works done primarily through specially chosen ones, for all will not be used in the same way. But all in these groups will have the Lord's complete protection and none shall be able to do them harm, even though they will be persecuted. The ministry of John and Lazarus will be the greatest, as the primary application of these verses, but others will be used also. They who partake of the Great Outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the second Pentecost will be used in a measure above others in accomplishing great signs and wonders in the name of Jesus Christ. Also, most of those who enter into the lampstand

ministry earlier will be used in a greater measure than those who enter later. Though the portrayal shows people at varying levels of spiritual growth, there shall yet be a unity and oneness among all, for they are all a part of the end-time Body which will be joined together for Christ's glory.

The two witnesses lay down their lives at the close of their period of testimony, and this sacrifice too is to be primarily fulfilled in John and Lazarus. After living without death and working in their physical bodies for 1900+ years, they will finally make that supreme sacrifice which those have chosen for themselves who wish greater glory. Others too will also make this Supreme sacrifice. To enter that which has been prepared for those who shall be Crowned with the martyr's crown, they must be willing to follow the pattern of the Son of God when He was on earth. He gave His all, even to death. So shall there be many who will follow in His steps in this end-time and willingly give up their lives and thereby receive their reserved portion.

But laying down one's life for his friends is not confined to a dying for them. Jesus laid down His entire 33 years for His friends, consummating that laying down on the Cross. Similarly, the two witnesses continuously have been and are laying down their lives for the Church and for its people. And they will also consummate the laying down at the end of the 1260 days of ministering. These two have been standing before the Lord of all the earth down through this whole age. John is giving his life in intercession for the Church, being at the Lord's right hand. Lazarus, standing on the left, is giving himself for his nation so that his own people might not be totally consumed in the wrath of their King, their Messiah, whom they rejected. Undoubtedly, the two offices awaiting them must be, without exception, the two highest positions available in the coming Kingdom. These are the two for whom it has been prepared by the Father that they should sit, one on the Lord's right hand and the other on His left hand in His Kingdom (*Matt. 20:21-23*). The reason has already been cited. Greater love has no man than that he lay down his life for his friends (*Jn. 15:13*). Necessarily, the preparing and grooming for these posts has been beyond the ordinary.

During 1260 days, John will lash out at the religious elements throughout Christendom. And Lazarus will speak out about what his own people have earned for themselves. Because of their unflinching forthrightness, the death of these two will be sought at every turn. It will be during the days of their witnessing that tribulation for all the earth shall pile up and persecution will become intense. Especially in the communist countries will the persecutions of Christians reach new peaks in modern savagery.

These two will not be delivering a soft and tactful message designed to comfort and protect the feelings of others. Nor will they seek a cordial welcome, or the praise of man for their attainment. Their message is the midnight cry. The Christian Church throughout the world will be greatly troubled by it, but will immediately *know* it to be true and will understand its import. The Jewish nation will receive it only in part.

The voices of the two witnesses will be as a trumpet with great power to declare to Jacob (spiritual Israel) his sin and to Israel his transgression (*Isa. 58:1*). In short order, these two shall be as hated by modern Jewry as was their Lord. Outside of Palestine, the political powers will flood their people with propaganda to discredit the two witnesses, yet multitudes will believe. Then a time of miracles will again burst forth to show the power and authority and glory of God. Although the two witnesses will be hated and rejected by political leaders of nations and world power, yet the message will

go out unhindered (*Rev. 10:11*). Without God's complete protection, they would be quickly silenced, but as with every true immortal of past, present and future, they have absolute, Divine protection – until the hour which they themselves have chosen for giving up their lives as a sacrifice.

Then at the conclusion of their 1260 days of testimony, the plan for the Church is fulfilled. The two witnesses shall be murdered and their bodies lie unburied for 3 ½ days. After 3 ½ days, they stand up again in life and they then head the resurrection of many "sleeping" saints. Then instantaneously they will be followed by the translation of many living members of the Glorious Church of Jesus Christ. In short, the two witnesses become the head of the "cloud" of millions of overcomer saints then taken to meet the Lord in the earth's atmosphere (*1 Thess. 4:13-18*).

The bodies of the two witnesses lying unburied for 3 ½ days is symbolic of the dead bodies of Christian witnesses throughout the world, especially in those countries symbolized by "Sodom and Egypt." The symbolism pictures an end-time 3 ½ year period of uprisings and reprisals and persecutions directed against God's servants, regardless of the group name by which they are known. Not permitting their bodies to be buried also indicates a continuation without cessation (no burying) of that revolutionary environment throughout the period of 1260 days (3 ½ prophetic "day/years").

We read that 1/10 of the city fell, implying the City of Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified. But it is also the place which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, and so this prophecy includes any and all parts of present civilization. The significance of the 1/10 is a picture of the total termination of observance of the Torah by Jewish people, and the fall of the Babylonian systems of governmental politics and economics among the Gentiles. Ten symbolizes law and also the Gentiles.

The 7000 men being slain, by its number symbolism, would indicate the termination of our contemporary Christian dispensation. The number of the Church is "7," and, in the world sense, the three ciphers speak of its soul power (x10) for the entire world (x100). In the spiritual view, it pictures those in the Church who have achieved the "7" of completion into rest, taken out or raised to the plane of God, which has its lowest number in 1000. Therefore, the 7000 spiritually shows God's final reaping or gathering a company of His own prepared ones by taking them out of the world, even though some through the portal of death. Some already dead will rise to meet Him through being resurrected into glorified bodies. Some will rise to meet Him without experiencing death. But others are yet to be ushered into His presence through the doorway of physical death.

The two witnesses begin their testifying approximately 3 ½ days in advance of the start of Great Tribulation upon the whole earth. Following that 3 ½ days, the "woman" Church is to be protected and fed in the wilderness of Great Tribulation during a subsequent period of 1260 days, ending in the gathering and translation of those who are ready (*Rev. 12:6,14*). The testimony of the two witnesses is concluded approximately 3 ½ days before the instant of resurrection and translation. Therefore, we see two 1260 day periods, offset by three or four days, the first being for the two witnesses and their testimony, the second for testing and proving the woman Church in the midst of Great Tribulation. At the conclusion of the later 1260 day period, the spiritually matured dead in Christ shall be raised. And then immediately a great host of the spiritually matured living shall be instantly Changed, in the twinkling of an eye, and be caught up with the

Lord. This company will include all who have prepared themselves according to His plan and who have finished their course – but no others (*I Cor. 15:51-54, Rev. 20:4*). Thus shall the *Glorious Church*, which has been the object and goal of the entire dispensation, be completed and joined together with the Lord in the heavenlies to be with Him always.